

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 5

June, 1900

No. 6

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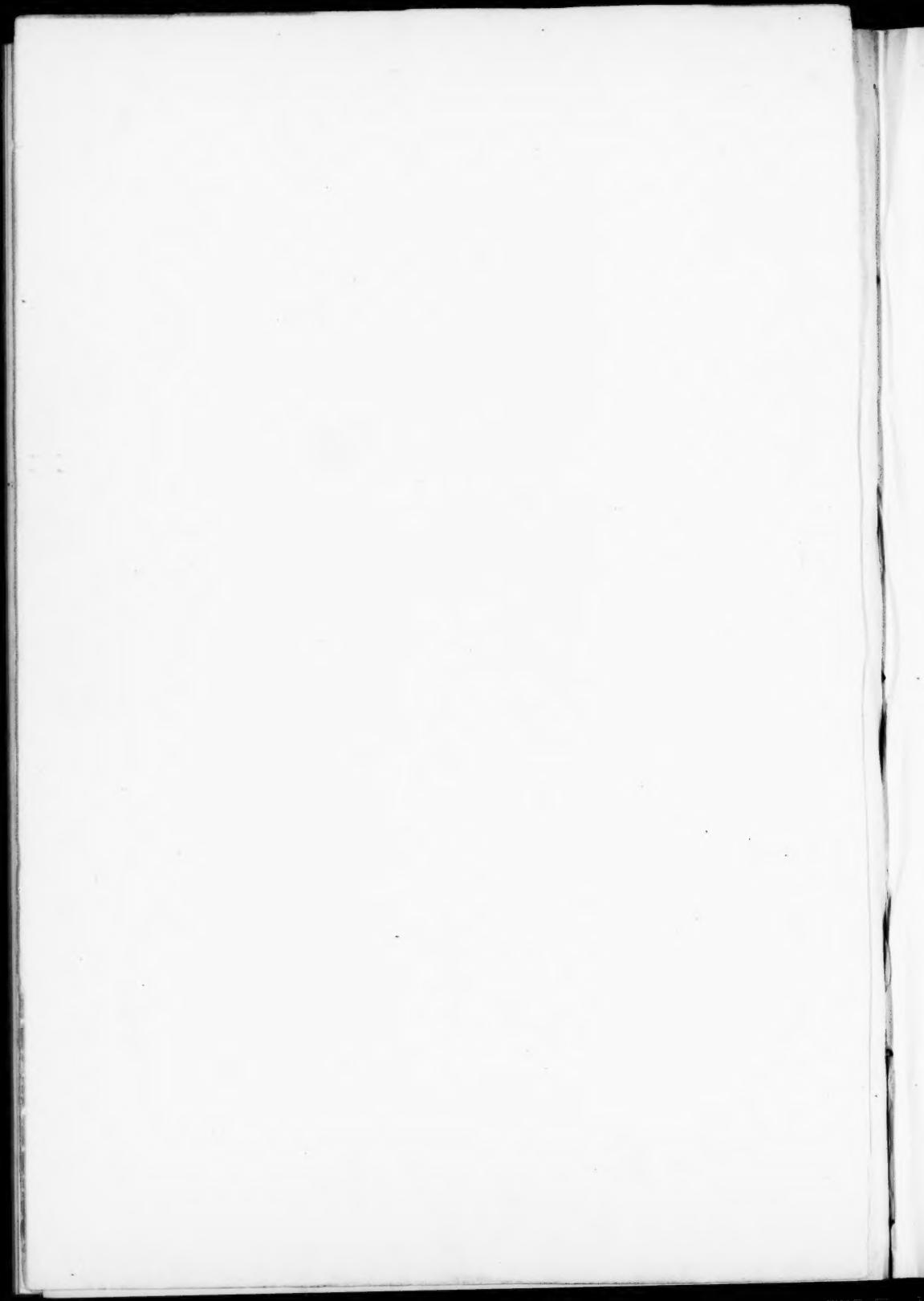
NEW YORK

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Our Vacation Book Talks

Caroline M. Hewins, Public library, Hartford, Conn.

In every city there are children who do not go out of town in the summer vacation. Between the boys and girls who look forward to weeks in cottages or hotels, and the others who have a country fortnight through fresh air funds, are many who spend all, or almost all, the summer at home. These are the children whom the librarian can catch for pleasant afternoons with books when it is too hot for outdoor play.

Last year I was talking with the boys and girls of grades seven to nine in a Hartford school, and asked them how many were going to stay in town through the summer. So many hands went up that I said: How should you like to come to the library one afternoon in the week for a book talk? Up went all the hands again, and before vacation I sent a card to the principal, saying that I should be happy to see the boys and girls at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoons through July and August. A few came, never more than 10, but among those 10 I discovered a girl who will be worth training for library work some day. We were talking about Sir Walter Scott, and I told the children about his lameness when he was a little boy, and how he was taken to Bath, giving them some descriptions of the place and showing them photographs from my visit of the year before. Why, isn't that where Mr Pickwick was? said Alice, and the joy

of finding a girl of 13 in these days who knew her *Pickwick* papers, and could connect one thing with another, was almost too much to bear. Then when I told of Scott's reading of all kinds of out-of-the-way things, and his love of the *Fairie Queene*, she actually knew who wrote it.

I find that children, however well trained in getting information from sources outside of their text-books, often miss the pure delight in literature that comes from the habit of browsing in the "pastures large and fair" of a library. Last year and this I have followed substantially the same plan of—no, not work—play. The minute you make work of your vacation-talks, regard them as a chore, or try to organize them on any plan of study, you fail in them. You have to go back to your own childhood and remember what you liked, then, try it on your boys and girls.

I sent cards this year to several public and parochial schools, inviting the pupils who were about to enter the high school and the two grades below. The subjects were:

| | AUDIENCE. |
|---------|--|
| July 5. | Books about Indians..... |
| 12. | Books about the north pole..... |
| 19. | Books about wonderful adventures..... |
| 26. | Some books of poetry and their authors..... |
| Aug. 2. | Books about animals and out-of doors..... |
| 9. | Fairy tales, old and new..... |
| 16. | Stories about pictures..... |
| 23. | Stories about machines and inventions..... |
| 30. | Some story books that you have not read..... |

We were much indebted for our books on Indians to the Evanston library. A tableful was placed in the office, chairs were brought in for the children, and

the talk began with running comment on the books.

Some of the Indian books are Bandelier's *Delight-makers*, Bourke's *Snake dance*, Catlin's *North American Indians*, Mary Hartwell Catherwood's stories, and Hough's *Story of the cowboy*, besides Cooper's novels, *Ramona*, Parkman's histories, and half a dozen volumes of Indian folklore like Leland's *Algonquin legends*, Lummis' *Man who married the moon*, and Grinnell's *Black-foot Lodge tales*. I read bits from several books, including the most amusing of all, Leland's tales, telling how Glooskap, the Conqueror, was conquered by one mightier than himself, the mighty Wasis, the baby, who sat placidly in a corner eating maple sugar, and saying *Goo!*

The next Wednesday we had a tableful of Arctic books, and after a little talk about the beginning of Arctic exploration and Sir John Franklin, I read from Dr Kane about the sufferings of the men on the *Advance* in the long dark winters, their lack of supplies, the training of the Esquimaux dogs, the desperate efforts of Kane to keep up the spirits of the others, the Christmas dinner where McGary told his story of the beans, and the long sledge journey. Then we had a reading from McClintock about the discovery of the Franklin relics, and ended with all of Nansen that we had time for. In the list that week, besides books on Arctic travel, we had a few on Iceland, Lord Dufferin's *Letters from high latitudes*, Baring-Gould's *Grettir*, Dasent's *Gisli the outlaw*, Haggard's *Bright-eyes*, and La Motte Fouqué's *Theodolf the Icelander*. We had also a dozen on Alaska and the Klondike.

On Strange and wonderful adventure afternoon I let my piratical fancy roam through Abbott's *Captain Kidd*, Lady Belcher's *Mutineers of the bounty*, and Becke and Jeffrey's very slightly colored version, *The mutineer*, Compton's *European Military adventures of Hindustan*, Church's *Traveler's true tale*, *Robinson Crusoe*, Haggard's *King Solomon's mines*, Higginson's *Tales of the*

enchanted islands, Charles Kingsley's *Westward ho!* Henry Kingsley's *Geoffrey Hamlin*, Marco Polo, Basil Hall, Captain Cook, Melville's *Moby Dick* and *White Jacket*, Palmer's *Translation of the Odyssey*, Quiller-Couch's *Splendid spur*, Stockton's *Buccaneers and privates and Adventures of Captain Horn*, Janvier's *Aztec treasure-house*, and *In the Sargasso sea*, Stevenson's *Treasure island*, Bullen's *Cruise of the Cachalot*, and Winthrop's *John Brent*. Last year I tried a little-known story by Dickens, *The perils of certain English prisoners*, but the style is too heavy and long winded to suit young readers.

On the Poetry afternoon we had some of the border ballads, and suggestions of Aytoun's *Lays of the Scottish cavaliers*, Drake's *Culprit fay*, Lanier's *Boy's Percy*, Lockhart's *Ancient Spanish ballads*, and *Robin Hood*. On the table were Macaulay, Stevenson, Eugene Field, the *Idylls of the king* and a few other books, besides volumes of Scott, who was the subject of most of the talk. We have lately hung over the children's open shelves a copy of Hardie's *Meeting of Burns and Scott* that has been given us, and a prize of Scott's poems had been offered for the best account of the picture and the incident which it illustrates. That afternoon we had a collection of Scott pictures—the Wizard himself at different ages, his wife, children, Marjorie Fleming, dogs, views of Abbotsford and its rooms, the grave in Dryburgh abbey and the empty chair at Abbotsford, with poor Anne Scott sitting on the floor with her head on the arm. Some of the children had read *The lady of the lake* and *Ivanhoe* in school, but they did not know the *Lay of the last minstrel*, and were introduced to *William of Deloraine*, *Michael Scott* and the *Goblin page*.

The next week I was out of town, but Miss Abbott, a Drexel graduate who was spending a month with us, taking charge of the vacation school reading-room and observing work with children, was a very successful substitute, reading from Thompson's *Wild animals I have known*, and suggesting writers like Gib-

son, John Burroughs, Mabel Osgood Wright, and such stories as Baldwin's Horse fair, Jackson's Denise and Ned Toodles, Albert Bigelow Paine's Arkansas bear and Hollow tree, and Trowbridge's Two Biddicut boys.

For the Fairy-tale afternoon we had on the table stories less familiar to the children than their dearly loved Grimm and Lang's books of many colors. For example, Old Deccan days, with its clever alligators and cunning jackals, valiant chatteemaker and learned owls, was a new book. So were Souvestre's Legends of Brittany and Guerber's Legends of the Rhine.

For stories about pictures I chose from a collection taken from old Art journals, such a half dozen as the Countess Isabelle of Croye before Charles the Bold, Undine and Hulbrand riding through the forest, the boy Chatterton spending his half holiday in the dusty library of St Mary Redcliffe, Ariel, Titania and Puck, but the Undine and Shakespeare's fairies took the whole hour, and were really a continuation of the talk the week before.

On the Machines and inventions afternoon we had, among other books, Hale's Stories of invention, Hubert's Inventions, Mason's Origins of invention, Bower's How to make common things, Cochrane's Wonders of modern mechanism, Hill's Fighting a fire, Hopkins' Magic, Similes' Lives of the engineers, Thurston's History of the steam engine, and Chadwick's Ocean steamships. Baker's Boy's book of inventions was not yet published.

The last day I told the boys and girls about some favorite stories of my own that they had not read. Beginning with Carlyle's German romance, I read them the adventure of the ghostly barber in Dumb love, and might have added Scott's adaptation of it in the Doom of Devorgoil had time permitted. Then I gave them a taste from the same book of Hoffmann's Golden pot. From the Student Anselmus and The salamander will catch thee, thou vile parsnip, it is a long distance to Cranford and Our village, but I mentioned them and Gilliat's

Forest outlaws and In Lincoln green, with Gomme's King's and queen's story book. For wonder tales I gave them Hauff's Stories and DeMusset's Mr Wind and Madame Rain, and for fighting and adventure, with history thrown in, Quentin Durward and Redgauntlet, and Miss Yonge's Caged lion and Dove in the eagle's nest.

There was no task work, no suggestion of supplementary reading or instruction. The afternoons were for pure pleasure and the enjoyment of books that children did not know how to find for themselves, unless under the guidance of a book browser, and I think that some of them carried away a list of titles for winter reading. The books were left in the reference room on a special shelf for a week or two after every talk, a typewritten list and a card drawing attention to them. A notice of the book talk, sometimes illustrated by a picture, was written on the library blackboard every week.

The same children came time after time, sometimes going out of town for a few days and reappearing. The invitation to half a dozen schools within easy distance prevented any feeling of favoritism. The number who accepted the invitation was small, but it is much better, of course, to read or talk over books with a half dozen or a dozen children than with a whole roomful. One large school not far away had a reading room open an hour every morning through the vacation school session, for children who could not be admitted into the school. On this account I did not include it in the invitation.

Certain books, too, must be bought at second hand, if economy is an object, as it usually is, and while in the regular buying a librarian has only to know the usual trade discounts, he must be conversant with the real value of a book that perhaps is out of print, and not place himself at the mercy of dealers who fix fictitious prices to their wares in the hopes that some person unskilled in the art of bargain getting may be found who will pay anything and everything that is asked.

Summer Hours and Work*

Mary Emogene Hazeltine, Jamestown, N. Y.

"Intramural aestivation, or town life in summer," said a very wise man, "is a peculiar form of suspended existence, or semi-asphyxia!" and I am just a little inclined to believe that this applies to some libraries as it certainly does to many individuals—all the functions of their life going on in a mechanical way but without consciousness.

It is of library methods at this season, at the period when "the dog star rages" and the women's clubs have ceased to rage—when everybody has gone to the mountains or the shore or the woods, and there "is nobody left in town," that I wish to speak. The subject very naturally divides itself into two parts: shall the library hours be the same all the year round, or are there changed conditions in summer that may call for a change of hours? and are there "summer styles" in library work—special fields of activity for wide-awake library people?

My own impression is an affirmative answer to both questions, but it will depend very largely upon local needs and conditions.

Finding our professional literature lacking information on this topic, I appealed to some 40 library acquaintances to help me out, and sent a circular letter asking if they had ever closed their libraries in summer or shortened or otherwise changed their hours? and if so why, and if not why not? if they had done any special summer work, and what it was?

I received some 35 replies.

Only two libraries reported being completely "shut down" in summer, one "to take invoice," and the other "on account of small-pox," a most excellent reason! In only nine libraries were the hours shortened or otherwise changed in summer. These changes were made in two instances because they were short of funds, in others because they were short of visitors, and in others still because

they were short of members of the staff. Most of the remaining 29 gave no reasons why they did not change their hours in summer. Some frankly said it was a subject they "hadn't thought about." Others did not shorten the hours "because people who cannot go away in summer should not have their privileges curtailed." But the prominent reason why no change was made was a solemn veneration for fixed hours, a sort of mysterious and awful dread of consequences if they should vary from their sacred schedule. This class was well represented by the very charming young woman who wrote: As to changing the hours, you might just say for me that we already have to knock the dunder-headed PUBLIC with sticks to make them read the hours before their eyes everywhere, and that if we made any attempt to have them different at times, the PUBLIC would be sitting on our steps from morning to night.

As to my own experience, it has certainly been "various and reasonably human." It was the custom before my day to close entirely during July to "clean house and take stock." That plan worked like a charm! for a time, even after my day. By July 1 we had "polished up the handle of the big front door" and were everywhere "spick and span." This odd-hour work also included the chasing of every vagrant book to its hidden lair, and on July 1 we all donned our fresh shirt-waists (except the janitor) and scattered, "To mountain, plain, and lea!" and the good "dunder-headed public" meekly accepted the situation and made no complaints.

But, alas! I most unfortunately discovered at length that as ours is a kind of "summer town," there were a lot of "strangers within the gates" every summer who wanted to visit the library, and so, for their benefit, the janitor was put on duty for a few hours every July afternoon, and had the art gallery and reading room open to sight-seers.

Then it happened that in an evil moment I carelessly let fall some idle words about our library being closed

*Read at N. Y. L. A., Niagara Falls, N. Y., Oct. 13, 1899.

in July, and this in the presence of the stern and forbidding inspector of libraries of this state. Immediately I received a forceful verbal treatise on library law, from which I learned that the great Empire state will not give its money to a public library unless its doors are open to the public a certain specified number of hours every week-day! Possibly it is needless for me to remark that we have not closed our doors during July since the inspector gave this gratuitous law lecture! Our regular hours are from 9 a. m. to 12 m., and from 1.30 to 8 p. m. (Saturdays to 9 p. m.) on week-days, or 58 hours per week. If we could afford it, I would prefer to keep open continuously from 9 a. m. to 8 p. m., or 67 hours weekly, not including a part of Sunday, which I would also favor; but we cannot afford the extra help, and our public seems so far to be entirely satisfied with the hours as they are.

Our summer hours last year, during July and August, were from 2 p. m. to 8 p. m., and we became convinced that while they served admirably for our own town people and patrons, that they were not long enough because of the summer visitors. Owing to this feature we found it advisable to keep open in July and August this year from 9 a. m. to 8 p. m. each week-day, or 66 hours per week, an INCREASE, you will note, of 8 hours per week over our regular hours, and of 30 hours per week over last summer's schedule.

Comparing July and August last year with the same months this year, we find that we had over 1000 more visitors in the art gallery, but that our circulation fell off over 10000., and the number of readers and students fell off 20 per cent. from the figures of last year, and this when we were open 240 additional hours! If the comparison means anything it means that lengthening the hours does not of necessity mean an increase in the use of the library. Good weather and "good times," especially the latter, are factors to be considered in determining the significance of figures of summer use.

We have had to make some new rules, forbidding dining in the reference room and waltzing in the art gallery. It is true we have had to compound a verbal insect powder to stay the ravages of that modern entomological discovery, the kissing bug of both sexes, which was occasionally found in secluded nooks; but all our visitors were easily amenable to discipline, and cheerfully repacked their luncheons, and quickly stopped their two-steps, and promptly repressed their affections when informed of our wise regulations!

We are always glad to see them; we are proud to have their names on our register, which they are always anxious to sign even if they fail to see the pictures and look over the books; their golf suits and shirt-waists and tan shoes enliven our rather severe surroundings. Some of them are cultured people, some of them are library people—and you know what that means—all of them strive to be obliging and courteous, and they teach us many valuable lessons from the great books of human nature!

After this long digression, in returning to the question of summer hours, I want to say that from all I can learn I believe that in many cases libraries can do as much, or more, real work in summer if the hours are somewhat shortened, as they do now. When the Roman legions shortened their swords they extended their dominion, and possibly when we shorten our hours we may extend the radius of our influence, and for the same reason. The shortened weapons brought the Romans nearer to their enemies; the shortened hours (if they are filled with the work that is seasonable, and of which I shall speak soon) may bring us nearer to the sympathy of the people whom we wish to help, and so extend our helpfulness.

I feel very deeply, however, that we must not change or shorten the hours in such a way as to interfere with the convenience of working people. Always seek to minister to them, and if anybody has to suffer let it be those of the well-to-do, or the leisure classes, and not the people from the factories

and shops. Secondly, I feel very deeply that any extra time that may be gained by shortening of hours should be in addition to, and not in lieu of, the regular vacation, which every member of the library force should have in such a way as to afford an entire change of occupation and surroundings!

I do not stand much in awe of rules simply because they are rules. I never heard that the laws of the Medes and Persians had any especial excellence, beyond the fact that they were rigid and inflexible; and I think there are some library laws that are like the laws of the Medes and Persians. There is no common sense in keeping a library open 12 hours per day (simply because of a rule or a precedent) if we find we can be of as much good to as many people in eight hours. There are people that come very early or very late now, and if we should open earlier or close later this same class would be on hand. If we kept open all night some of these people would appear at 3 a. m.; but, as a general rule, these are not the people who get the real benefit of the library.

And I am not very much in awe of the "dunder-headed public!" If we do the best we can for this public we shall come out in the long run all right. If it is better for the public and ourselves that we should change the hours let us do it, and trust in Providence and in plenty of good big "hour signs" and in oft-repeated newspaper notices.

The government, and every state, county, and city, all change their hours of business when they see fit, and yet the experiment of "government of, by, and for the people" isn't a failure. The postal authorities, for example, tell me that when they change their hours there is some confusion, and the public is "dunder-headed," especially the business men; but soon everything is serene again, and Uncle Sam doesn't lose a penny by the transaction. And so I think we can take heart of grace, and "make the punishment fit the crime" by defying laws, precedents, and the public, and conforming our hours to the demands of our work.

Extension of Free Public Libraries in New York City

John D. Haney, General director Play school
libraries, New York city

The board of education for the boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx, New York city, has recently decided to make a more extended use of the public schools as distributive centers of a great free public library system. This action suggests inquiry into what has been already done in that city toward this same end.

As the readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES well know, the schoolhouses of the municipality have long been purveyors to the pupils that attend them of works of standard fiction, and works supplementary to the texts used in class. This department, in the various libraries that lend books to the schools, has already grown enormously, so that a single one of these lending libraries circulated, during last year, in Manhattan and Bronx boroughs 36,603v., exclusive of volumes circulated in vacation schools, playgrounds, or play centers.

Two years ago, when the summer schools were definitely organized under the board of education, a catalog was prepared from titles furnished by the three principal free libraries with traveling departments, and books were furnished in accordance therewith to the summer schools. These summer schools had a session about seven weeks long. The so-called vacation schools resembled the ordinary school, save that its daily session lasted from 9 a. m. to 12 m. Playground was the technical name for a school in which only the playroom and one adjacent room were used, and its session was from 8 a. m. to 12 m., and from 1 p. m. to 5 p. m. The play center was a school in which only the playroom and one adjacent room were used from 7 p. m. to 10 p. m. The play centers were first established Aug. 7, 1899, and are still in operation.

The terminology used above is somewhat confusing, but was rendered necessary by various circumstances. It

will be seen from the hours prescribed that the same schoolhouse might be a playground and a play center, and that a vacation school might be a playground in the afternoon and a play center at night.

Now all of these departments had to be supplied with books, and the three libraries before alluded to were most generous in their assistance.

In the season of 1899-1900 the vacation schools and playgrounds opened on July 17, the former for a six weeks' session, the latter for an eight weeks' session. To 10 vacation schools were supplied about 3100 books of an elementary character, chiefly fiction.

Since the pupils were all enrolled members of the school they were not required to secure the signature of a guarantor, but received the books from their teachers and gave them back to the same. In this way the circulation amounted to 7669.

It was unfortunate that no special room could be set aside as a reading room and library in charge of a competent assistant. There can be no doubt that in many cases the volume was thrust into the child's hand with a command to read it and bring it back soon. Such a system is fraught with grave danger, and may lead to an imperishable distaste for reading; but the idea was rather novel to the teachers, many of whom came from out of town, and a desire to send in a large report for circulation proved more potent than the desire to see the child really interested in a really good book.

To the playgrounds, for which there was no registry of pupils, 3000 books were sent. These were distributed to the different schools in varying quantities, but each library delivered to particular schools. In 21 playgrounds the circulation of the books amounted to 4315, but many books were, in contrast to the vacation schools, irrevocably lost. This was owing mainly to lack of organization and carelessness in delivering and recording. Here it was ordered that each child should have a guarantor sign a slip stating his willingness to

make good any loss. But straw guarantors were accepted by some directors of playgrounds, and many books were given to children who lived at impossible addresses. It was a great misfortune that this occurred, since it could easily have been prevented; but the workers regarded the books as school, not private property, and were reckless in their treatment of them.

To six play centers 643 books were sent, and up to December 31 there had been a circulation of 12,075. Here, too, the circulation was in a degree forced, and falsely recorded. Although the children were in many cases restricted to one book a night, they frequently chose a book out of mere curiosity, or because it contained pictures. These once looked at they grew tired of the book and returned it, but its use was always noted as circulation. It must not be understood from this, however, that no books were read. Many called for the same book night after night, showing a genuine interest in it and finally completing it.

In both the playgrounds and play centers other amusement was to be had besides reading, and a room was set aside for library and reading purposes. This room, though often incommodious, served the useful end of segregating those that were desirous of reading, and enabled those to whom quiet was a necessity to find a well-lighted and well-heated retreat for quiet enjoyment.

The attendance of adults was solicited for these reading rooms, and books for older people were supplied. Magazines and six daily newspapers were furnished by the city. Owing to the fact that most of the play centers were in the Jewish quarter, the notices in regard to the schools were printed in Yiddish; Yiddish books were circulated in one school, and all centers had one Hebrew paper a day.

Applicants for books at the play center, also, had to furnish a guarantor if they wished to draw books, but they had this additional privilege: if the book they demanded was not on the shelves of the center, the librarian there

sent a postal card that night for it to the lending library, and the latter sent it by messenger the next day.

Although the recorded circulation up to Dec. 31, 1899, was about 24,000 for vacation schools, play centers, and playgrounds, the lending libraries did not get any compensation therefor. This was unfortunate, but it led to the idea of municipal ownership of the books, and now it is proposed to extend the library system through many more of the public schools, and to bring them under the library law of 1892. It can easily be seen that this will be a very far-reaching scheme, and will serve to establish in populous, but distant parts of the city, convenient and pleasant reading rooms and libraries.

To anyone who is familiar with the sordid lives of many of New York's inhabitants this plan suggests many attractive features. Around the library as a center there can be made to gather a great deal of the local social life, and the public hall need not be given over to reading alone.

Many of New York's very poorest are extravagantly fond of music, and this with the pictures that New York furnishes her schools—excellent reproductions of the great works of antiquity—will go very, very far toward effecting that Americanization, that regeneration that will be the safeguard of a great commercial and cosmopolitan center.

It has been suggested, though many are opposed to the idea, that these centers be open on Sunday, as are the great museums. This will probably come in time, and not till then will the city present to her sons fitting recreation for the great day of unrest.

As reference libraries and study rooms for the night high schools these centers promise to be invaluable. Here the diligent and laborious student will find light, air, books, and personal aid to help him, handicapped as he is by age, alien customs and faltering tongue, instead of the disturbance, the dim light and distraction of his crowded home.

The time has gone by when the

schoolhouse was occupied for a few hours a day by children only. The schoolhouse of the future will be a great municipal plant, incessantly active, and generating forces with each revolution of the sun that will transmute the pinchbeck minds of a debased population into the golden gleams of an enlightened civilization. The free gymnasium and free bath is already a part of the public school system. It cannot be that the great incentive to increased mental activity and intellectual recreation can be long behind!

It is intended further to make these libraries coöperate with the lecture department of the board of education, the university extension system of which New York boasts so much. By supplying reference books, files of newspapers and volumes of magazines the work of the lecturer can be readily and effectively supplemented.

A few years hence will see the great city, therefore, well on its way toward supplying those wants of its citizens which, child-like, they have been craving so long, but which she in her mistaken Spartan mood has seen fit to persistently deny.

Libraries in Arkansas

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

It gives me pleasure to report what we hope will be the first step of a general library movement in Arkansas. At their recent convention in Texarkana, the Arkansas Federation of women's clubs passed a resolution asking the legislature to authorize communities to vote a 1 mill tax for library purposes.

Such a law would be commendable progress on the part of a state which now has no library legislation. Every effort will be made to secure its passage.

Ladies in Helena, Arkadelphia, and other towns have formed library associations and started modest libraries.

We hope for great things from these beginnings. IRENE G. GALLAWAY,

Fayetteville, Ark.

A Swiss Library Society and Its Work

The following circular, letter, and prize offer throw an interesting light on the aims and methods of one group of library workers in our little sister republic, Switzerland. I am sure they will be read with appreciation and sympathy.

I would like to call attention to the modest little periodical in which I found them, as one that might prove helpful here to public libraries keeping up a department of popular French books. *La Lecture*, now in its twenty-third year, contains signed reviews of popular books in the various departments of knowledge. In the domains of fiction and juvenile books particularly its recommendations should be valuable and trustworthy. The subscription price is but 4 francs in the Postal union.

MARY E. HAWLEY.

The John Crerar library, Chicago.

To the public

The committee of the Geneva society for the encouragement of popular libraries would respectfully call your attention to its annual collection.

The modest resources placed at its disposal by those who have aided it hitherto, have enabled it to maintain several libraries, particularly that established for the pupils of the Collège de Genève, in Mlle. Rosier's bookstore and stationery shop, no. 9 Rue Verdaine.

But the committee wishes to do more and better—to extend its activity.

The magazine *La Lecture*, appearing monthly under the expert direction of one of our Genevese ladies, and the auspices of our society, seems to us an organ well adapted for aiding us in the task we have set ourselves. The book reviews furnished by *La Lecture*, which may be read by all without danger and with profit, make this magazine a very useful publication for popular libraries, for is it not the aim of these to diffuse a taste for reading that is at once interesting, sound, and moral?

Should our appeal be heard as we hope, we could, while continuing to sustain the libraries in which we are always interested, put more life into *La Lecture* by enabling it to increase the number of its collaborators, and by ourselves paying for a certain number of subscriptions which we would give gratuitously to popular libraries at home and abroad. Perhaps we might also buy and send to these libraries some of the books especially recommended by *La Lecture*. By these various activities we should advance still nearer our cherished aim—the encouragement of popular libraries.

For the committee of the society,

L. CRAMER-MICHELL,
Secretary.

Some advice to directors of popular libraries as to the best manner of distributing their books.

The director of a popular library worthy of his title will be penetrated with the importance of his mission, the grandeur and beauty of his task; he will be full of enthusiasm, of energy and of joy. When each week, or perhaps several times a week, the hour comes for distribution, he will not betake himself to his library as one goes to some sordid drudgery to be gotten through as quickly as possible; no, it will be for him an hour of true and holy joy. That this may be so—is it needful to say?—the director must have a love of books, and especially a love of man. The love of books first, the love of beautiful and good books, those which encourage, which fortify, and at the same time refresh. Away with the railing, skeptical, bad books, those wherein poor humanity, which so needs to be lifted up and encouraged, is treated with contempt! These latter, even if written by the brilliant pen of a Pierre Loti, an Anatole France, or a Victor Cherbuliez, should be rigorously excluded from our popular libraries.

The director of a popular library who is worthy of that name, will have the love of souls in the highest sense of those words; that is to say, he will de-

sire before everything else the good of his readers, their moral and intellectual development. This love of souls, which one draws in only at the feet of our divine Master, will give him a certain aptness in understanding his readers, in taking account of the grade of their instruction, of their surroundings, their tastes; he will want also to know their occupations. The tastes and the development of the young countryman are not those of a mechanic. These reflections may assure anyone that the task of the director of a popular library is not so easy a one as many imagine.

Two years ago, happening to be at our binder's, he called my attention to a pile of volumes from a village library and invited me to examine them. It was perhaps indiscreet, but it was very instructive. I was distressed; many of the books were absolutely bad, a large number were trashy, very few were good. I asked the name of the director, an old toper schoolmaster. Is not that sad?

If the director is animated by a genuine desire to raise the moral and intellectual level of his readers, it will be his rule not to make any propaganda, political or religious, in the narrow sense of those words. The library ought to be a sanctuary where all members of different churches, and men of all parties, may feel themselves at ease. We have realized that ideal at Ecublens. Though housed in a pleasant room in the chapel of the free church, our library has acquired real popularity, and few are the families of the region who have not our books in their hands.

Two kinds of books are in constant demand. The chances are a hundred to one that a young girl, or the mother of a family, will simply ask for a good book, or a very interesting book, by which is meant a good novel. A boy, youth, or grown man will ask for hunting adventures, books of war or of travel. If the librarian has a real desire to do good, he will encourage the young man who for some time has read only travels, hunting narratives, and books of adventure, to leave that class

of reading for a time, and will give him a biography, the life of a missionary, for example. Another time he will interest him in history, then in natural history. He will lead the young girl and the mother of a family to read the lives of Charlotte Krummacher and Elisabeth Bentes; *the Family*, by Frank Thomas, etc. He must know how to revive flagging curiosity; one who is tired of novels will read something else with pleasure. One valuable resource for our popular libraries is found in the reviews and periodicals, both illustrated and other. With us they have a large number of readers, and certainly do good.

These, dear directors of popular libraries, are suggestions and experiences drawn from a practice of twenty years. I should be glad if my letter called out a friendly discussion in the excellent Lecture that we all like so much, and if other directors would make known to us their experiences, suggestions, and desires. Our work is not a resounding one; it is humble, hidden, and without éclat. If our popular libraries achieved no other results—and we know very well that they have others—than the supplying of good and pure recreation, that would not be enough, but would it not be something? To strew flowers on the path of life, to give good counsel, to cause the burdens of the day, the sorrows of the world, to be forgotten for a few hours, that is not a trifle, it is much. Forward then with courage and may God himself guide us, for there are dangers to be avoided. When we see, for example, the mother of a family so delighted with the reading of novels, however excellent, that she neglects her work for them, it is necessary courageously to interfere. When a lad, passionately fond of Jules Verne, Cooper, or Gustave Aimart, lives only in a fantastic world, one must with love and tact sober him, taking care, however, not to go too far.

Hoping that these few lines may be of use to you, dear directors of *La Lecture*, I am, very respectfully yours,
L. MUSY-BARRAUD.

Fifth prize competition of La Lecture

The subject of reading for young girls has been often discussed. Doubtless many of our friends heard a lecture given in Geneva some months ago by M. René Bazin. That charming author took precisely this subject as the theme of his talk. He closed by saying that there could be no such thing as novels for young girls. That is a spurious kind, he said, and before reading romances a woman should have lived her own.

Be it so; but in the way of reading matter there is, happily, something besides fiction, and the question we would like to submit to our friends who—it is well understood, is it not?—are always ready to become our coworkers, is this: What do you understand by reading for young girls? If you had daughters or pupils from 17 to 20 years of age what would you give them to read? (Observe that we do not say, What would you read aloud to them with judicious skipping?)

Please accompany, or follow, your reflections by a selection of twenty works (biographies, essays, travels, novels, etc.) which you consider perfectly suitable to figure in the library of a young girl.

We do not fix a limit for the papers to be sent us, but the longest ones will not necessarily be the best. Papers should reach the editor's office, 4 Rue Beauregard, Geneva, before April 1, 1900.

A jury composed of mothers and matrons of orphan asylums will award the prize of 40 francs to the paper which seems to them most meritorious. A sealed envelope, containing name and address, should accompany each communication intended for the competition. We reserve the right to publish any of the essays submitted.

THE EDITORS, *La Lecture*.

The State library school of New York has prepared a large number of bulletins for special days for the use of libraries. Those interested may learn more about them by addressing Mrs S. C. Fairchild, Albany, N. Y.

Some Library Observations

The library field in New York presents every phase of the work that can be thought of. It presents an interesting study not only of the library problems but of the people in charge of them, and surely one will see in a tour of the libraries every kind of a library user that can be found anywhere else in the world.

Of course the wealth of the great Public library that is to be is not as yet in so much evidence to the casual visitor as it is in the minds of those who are to develop it. But even so, there is still enough to cause one to marvel at the prodigious labor that must be undergone in organizing these vast possessions from various quarters into effective sources of helpfulness for the future.

At the Astor library are piles upon piles of material waiting their turn to be converted into intelligible and finally intelligent efficiency by the small army of workers, among whom the visitor sat for some little time waiting for the "open sesame" to prevail.

What an interesting thing it is to watch a lot of busy people work, particularly if you don't know what they are doing. It is much like watching flies on a sugared paper, so much of it all seems aimless and yet we know there is a method that is governing it all. It gives a chance to the visitor to reflect that he is a visitor and not a part bearing a degree of the responsibility of the huge machinery, to be glad in consequence, and then to wonder how much longer he must wait.

But to resume. In every room of the Astor is full evidence, in the crowded conditions, of the great stores of information that will be found when the machinery is fully organized for work, and the new public library building gives room for all these things to have free vent.

A visit to the Lenox library was one of the pleasantest events of the stay in New York. Situated in that part of the city where one forgets the ills of

the place, in a beautiful building, well lighted and airy, are the priceless collections of reference books made up from generous donations by many of the leading citizens of America. Art, science, belles-lettres, Americana, and general history are here represented in quantity and kind not often duplicated in this country. The collection of early printing, illuminated books, and rare bindings recalls to mind very forcibly the collections seen in Oxford and Cambridge.

One of the special features which attracted the visitors' attention was the large collection of early maps and the method of storing them. They were backed with linen, then folded to appropriate size and placed in pamphlet boxes. These in turn were labeled sufficiently to agree with the entries in the catalog, making the entire lot accessible and occupying comparatively little space.

That the library has an appreciative clientele was attested by the crowd of people who were studiously poring over its contents. The collection of paintings afforded a delightful hour's pleasure to the visitors which will long be remembered.

The atmosphere and spirit of the library seemed to the visitor to be profoundly scholarly, with means at hand to answer the demands, and the whole visit was pervaded with a courtesy and genial pleasure in exhibiting the priceless stores that was delightful.

Columbia university library, situated as the crowning figure in the group of colleges surrounding it, and overlooking a beautiful panoramic view of the landscape bordering the Hudson on one side and the city on the other, seems to reach up to the privileges of its situation. Recently reorganized in its administration, shortly after being snugly ensconced in its magnificent new building, its work seemed to the visitor to be moving on in a spirit befitting the advantages of its surroundings. Each department is in charge of a chief with one or more assistants in the line of promotion. The detail work

of each department is planned and executed by the members of that department without interference from the head of the institution so long as satisfactory results under proper conditions are shown. A harmonious, all-round efficiency seems to pervade, and promises of still larger results are everywhere evident.

A noticeable feature was the consideration shown in arranging for the apartments for carrying on the technical work of the library. Light, air, and sunshine were available for all the work-tables and rooms.

There may be a magnificent directors' room in some part of the building, but the visitor did not see it, and the modest and accessible room of the librarian did not, in the least, overshadow the rooms of the staff. It was a pleasant afternoon's visit.

So much has been written in praise of Pratt institute free library that to record the visit to that delightful institution will be but to repeat again what has been said so many times already. Light and sweetness and life and hope seemed to pervade the very rooms, and the lucky children who may gather in the children's room, with its mottoes, pictures, bulletins, plants, flowers, and every conceivable attraction, low bookshelves, small tables and chairs, and, greatest of all, healthy, wholesome cheerful service, surely have nothing left to wish for in this place.

Special attention is given at Pratt, also, to the comfort, convenience, and happiness of those who carry on the work as well as of the students in the school. Pleasant quarters for work, and a retiring room to rest or recuperate, makes one wish that more of the spirit which provides them were prevalent.

The only drawback to the visit was its being at a time when the library school was not actively engaged in work. But a view of the members, as they listened to a lecture on Classification of some 75 minutes, gave the visitors a chance to form an opinion, at least, of the spirit of the class.

Changing Size of Catalog Cards

I have been often asked by libraries whether it will pay to alter the size of a card after a considerable number have been written on something different from the standard form. In the majority of cases there is little doubt that the sooner the change is made the cheaper it will be, though there are cases where the expense involved seems prohibitive. A letter before me today speaks of a catalog of 85,000 cards 8×11.25 cm. About 6 per cent of these cards have to be recopied, as they were written in ink which has faded, emphasizing anew the danger of using anything but inks of thoroughly tested permanence.

The substitution of single trays for the double drawers brings up the question whether the standard size shall now be adopted. In this particular case the answer is obvious. There is no difficulty in using shorter cards with the standard, and as these cards are only a half centimeter wider than the ordinary, probably more than 90 per cent can be cut down to the standard height and used without recopying. By going through the cards and picking out those which have matter in the top margin which would be lost, they could be put in two piles, one of which could be cut down at the top, while the other would have to be cut from the bottom and repunched for the rod a little higher, or in very rare cases a card might have to be copied. If, however, the size of the card were such that no retrimming would adjust it to the present universal standard, I should still strongly advise adopting the $7\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cm. card. This has made its way all over the bibliographic world, and is the international standard. The United States government recently made 40,000,000 postal cards of this size in recognition of the growing importance of having cards for book titles and other purposes which would drop at once into the standard files. Trays, drawers, pockets, and various devices for convenient work have multiplied with wonderful rapidity, so that it is no longer an exaggeration to

say that the well-constructed library building would be constructed around the standard P card as a unit. This determines the size of the trays, they of the cases, and they in turn of the spaces between windows, so that in fact a carefully considered plan would start with the standard card as a unit, just as the national museum was built up around a single small administrative unit. All the coöperative bibliographies, printed cards, and much other important work, can be utilized readily only by adopting the standard size. It is a serious matter to change, but it is a much more serious matter to go on with an odd size.

If the cost of copying is prohibitive at first, the new size may be adopted at the expense of consulting two catalogs, till after a time the old one is printed or merged in the new. This was the plan we adopted in the New York state library, when we found an old form of card catalog in use which we could not afford to copy at once. We have never regretted the abandonment of that form; and I have never known a library that brought itself into line with modern progress, so that it utilized the coöperative work of the rest of the library world, to regret even a serious expense in making the change.

MELVILLE DEWEY.

The Cutter Author Tables

Some discussion has been going on lately among librarians in some of the smaller libraries in the West anent the relation which exists between the two-figure and the three-figure order tables. The subject having been brought to Mr Cutter's attention, he writes of it as follows:

I intended the three-figure order tables to be an extension of the two-figure tables; but through some misunderstanding the new ones were made without any reference to their predecessors, so that the two cannot be used together. I could not ask a volunteer to do her work over again, and so I printed them. Experience has shown that this was a mistake; therefore I have entrusted to two friends the preparation of new three-figure tables, made as I intended the other to be, by adding a third figure to my two. As soon as they are done I shall print them.

C. A. CUTTER.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Library Bureau | - - - - | Publishers |
| M. E. AHERN | - - - - | Editor |
| Subscription | - - - - | \$1 a year |
| Five copies to one library | - - - - | \$4 a year |
| Single number | - - - - | 20 cents |

PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

THE officers of the Library section of the N. E. A. are planning for an interesting and helpful meeting at Charleston in July, as will be seen by the announcement elsewhere in PUBLIC LIBRARIES. As many librarians as can attend this meeting are especially urged to do so, and particularly those librarians in the south who will not attend the meeting of the A. L. A., but who may on account of the location and time be able to go to Charleston. It is to be remembered that Charleston is on the sea-coast, thereby affecting the climate, and is, moreover, a historical city amidst interesting surroundings. A full attendance of those interested is expected and desired.

IN view of the many new library buildings being erected at this time, it may not be amiss to call the attention again of those in charge of them to the importance of having in mind the end and purpose for which these buildings are to be used, and the funds available for administering them when completed. Architects, in drawing plans, should be held to the purpose of the building according to the latest and most approved methods, and should be induced, as they can be, to plan for a library first, and for architectural effects afterward. The following from the Boston Transcript contains useful hints on this subject:

One of the vital essentials in the planning of new library buildings should be such an arrangement of the working and delivery rooms as to secure the best general supervision by the fewest attendants. The increased cost of administration in some of the newer palatial buildings is somewhat appalling. In one the cost will be nearly three and in another nearly four-fold what it was before. The number of books is no greater, the public has better con-

veniences, but are they sufficient to warrant this great expense of administration which will be continuous, as well as increasing?

IT was somewhat of a surprise to the library friends of George Iles to find his name as the author of a work tracing the path of inventions based on an evolution from fire to electricity. Librarians had come to regard Mr Iles as a littérateur rather than one interested in scientific investigations, because they knew him best as a warm supporter of critical discrimination in literature as such. But after seeing his name on the title-page of Flame, electricity, and the camera, the second thought is that this is another phase of his versatility that is worth examining, and an examination will unfold a decidedly interesting story of progress. It is of man's development, as it leads from the first kindling of fire to the wireless telegraph and colored photography, and told in a singularly attractive way which cannot fail to win for the story many readers. The story is given in a perfectly clear and simple style that carries the reader along to the culminating points of the narrative without loss of interest or confusion of ideas.

The reading public will certainly long feel grateful to Mr Iles for a most charming recital of scientific facts which too often fail to interest because presented in an unattractive form by their historians. Many illustrations add to the value of the work.

ON May 1 the Dial brought out an anniversary number to celebrate its 20 years of work. It was a highly interesting number, and contained, besides a review of the aims and achievements of the Dial by the editor, a retrospect of the trend of literary matters, and the kindred subjects, publishing, bookselling, and libraries, by representative persons engaged in the work.

But the most noted feature was the long list of tributes from eminent writers and scholars both at home and abroad, all expressing in strongest terms the high esteem which is accorded the Dial by these distinguished readers.

It must be a matter of deep gratifica-

tion to those interested to feel that their efforts are so cordially appreciated by those who are competent to speak, and who in these letters bestow such generous praise upon them.

It is a matter of congratulation to the city of Chicago, more to be prized than many more pretentious efforts, that in its midst the Dial has these 20 years performed so steadily and worthily the high mission set before it, and at the close of the period, received so unanimously the glowing tributes from so worthy a body of friends.

Without presuming to join the galaxy of bright stars represented in that list, PUBLIC LIBRARIES would offer its humble tribute of sincere regard for the high plane on which the Dial carries out its purpose of being a worthy medium of literary criticism, discussion, and information.

IN view of the many expressions of opinion which have been sent to us regarding the time and place of holding the next meeting of the A. L. A., we call special attention to the following extract from a letter from Mr Hutchins of Wisconsin. It seems to offer a remedy for the complaints as to place made by many librarians west of New York, and as to time by college and school librarians everywhere:

Last fall the citizens at Waukesha appointed a committee to make arrangements to invite the A. L. A. to hold the conference for 1901 in that city. This committee secured from the proprietor of the Fountain house an agreement to make a rate of \$2.50 a day for the members of the association. The Fountain house has 600 rooms, and could accommodate all the members if the association were held as early as the first week in July, or as late as the first week in September. There is a well equipped electric line which runs from Waukesha to Milwaukee, a distance of 20 miles. I think we are safe in offering very good accommodations at very reasonable prices, and the members of the association can have a hotel that is large enough to accommodate

all of them, and can have practical control of it during the association.

It would be unwise and foolish for us to say that the citizens of Waukesha are able to give such elaborate entertainments as will probably be offered by the citizens of Montreal; but we can certainly assure the association that they will receive at Waukesha, if they come, a very cordial welcome, and that they will be given all necessary conveniences. The citizens of the state would feel very much honored by the selection of Wisconsin as a place for holding the meeting, and many of our best people will unite with the people of Waukesha in trying to make the meeting helpful.

As I told you and some other western friends last year, we felt anxious to have a meeting of the association in the west, and would cheerfully unite with the representatives of the neighboring states to have the meeting held in the place where it would secure the best results for the library interests of our part of the world. All of those with whom I talked seemed to think that there was no place more suitable than Waukesha, and for that reason we tried to interest the citizens in extending the invitation. The Citizens' business league of Milwaukee is very anxious to have the association held in Milwaukee, and are willing to offer considerable inducements in the way of entertainment. I have favored the Waukesha invitation, for the reason that I thought that members of the association would prefer to have a meeting at a country summer resort.

It would be a very great pleasure for us in Wisconsin to have the privilege of entertaining the association, but we do not feel that we have any right to be unduly insistent in urging our claims. If you feel that you can help us we should be very grateful for your assistance, and I think that you will need no assurance that we shall use our utmost endeavors to make the meeting, if it is held in Waukesha, useful to the library cause, not only in Wisconsin, but in all our neighboring states.

Good Library Buildings in Pittsburgh

The new branch libraries of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, one on Mt Washington and the other in Hazelwood, will be ready for public use within a very short time.

Between 4000 and 5000v. of the choicest of books have been purchased for each branch, and these books have been classified and cataloged, and are ready to be placed on the shelves at any time.

In speaking of the two new branches Librarian Anderson says: I regard them as the most perfect little libraries that can be designed. The plans and interior arrangements are such as to permit of the use of every inch of space to the very best advantage. The buildings are not very large, yet each will accommodate from 150 to 200 people at one time, and there is shelf space in each library for from 12,000 to 15,000v. The entrance is in the center of the front of each building. In the center of each building is a large circular desk and counter, within which the librarian and the assistants will work. Between the desk and the entrance is a spacious foyer, and to the rear of the desk is the reference department, all of which is in one large room. To the right and left of the desk in the two wings of each building are two large reading rooms, one for children and one for adults. These two rooms are separated from the foyer, librarian's desk, and the reference department by a glass partition. This prevents the people in these rooms from being disturbed by those who are in the foyer and at the desk, and, at the same time, the librarian has a full view of every part of the library, and can see everything transpiring within its walls.

On each side of the circular desk, and between it and the glass partitions, there is a turnstile, through which the people must pass before they can get into the reference room or into either of the reading rooms. Standing within the desk and facing the entrance the librarian has the reading room for adults on the right and the children's room on

the left. Each of these rooms will have a number of tables and a seating capacity of from 80 to 100. Open shelves will be placed on the sides of each of these rooms and also of the reference room, excepting the glass partition side. The children's room will contain books and periodicals specially suited to juveniles and the adults' room will contain, besides the best literature on fiction, science, and the arts, a case containing the best current magazines and periodicals and also a number of newspapers. Works of general reference will be placed in open shelves on the walls of the reference room.

Visitors to these libraries will have free access to any book on the shelves. If books are taken out the applicant can select the volume desired direct from the shelves, and have the transaction properly indorsed by the librarian before passing out through the turnstile. In the basement of the Mt Washington branch there is a fair sized lecture room which will be utilized for educational purposes.

The Hazelwood branch is equipped with a regular hall, which adjoins the library proper at the rear. A number of enterprising women of Hazelwood raised \$4000 for a hall, which sum was doubled by Andrew Carnegie, the munificent founder of the free libraries of Pittsburgh. With the \$8000 a fine hall has been built which will accommodate a good sized audience.

Picture Collections

The attendant in the art department of the City library of Springfield, Mass., has collected at odd moments during the past year about 10,000 reproductions of pictures. She has gathered them from the publications in the following list, as well as from other minor things or parts of things not here enumerated.

The pictures have been arranged in groups by artists. They are inclosed in portfolios that have been made by the simple folding over three times of sheets of manilla paper, 13 inches wide and 27 inches long. When folded over

the packet or cover is 13 x 9. On the outside of the top fold is the name of the artist whose pictures are within, the dates of his birth and death, and the name of the school to which he belongs. In many cases these items are followed by a list of the pictures to be found within. The whole set of portfolios is kept on shelves in alphabetical order by the artists' names. The artists of a particular school can of course be got at very easily by referring to any classified list.

The portfolios are made of a good quality of genuine rope manilla, 10 cents per pound. At this rate they cost about a cent apiece. The pictures have been found to be exceedingly useful, even though they do not illustrate an artist's work as well as expensive photographs.

Two other sets of portfolios are in process of making. One is to be large enough to hold the double page pictures from such publications as Harper's weekly (20½ x 26), and is to be made like the smaller ones, simply of heavy manilla. The other is to be large enough to hold pictures as large as Seemann's Wandbilder, about 25 x 32 (100 pictures about \$35). This is to be made of a sheet of very heavy pulp board, with flaps of manilla paper so attached to two of its sides as to fold over and cover the pictures.

The attendant in charge of the Horace Smith collection of casts of Greek and Renaissance sculpture, which is in the library's art building, has made a collection similar to the above, but including only pictures of sculpture. These pictures are arranged and kept, as are those which have to do with paintings, except that reproductions of sculptures, the makers of which are unknown, are arranged in accordance with the rules set forth in the chapter on the Care of photographs in the Library primer.

List of publications, serials, etc., from which the above collections have been made

Art and artists of our times. Selmar Hess, N. Y. 9½ x 12½. Second-hand.

Art treasures of America. G. Barrie, Philadelphia. 12 x 17½. Second-hand.

Blue prints. Earl Thompson, Syracuse, N. Y. 4 x 5; 1 cent each.

Classical picture gallery. Monthly. H. Grevel & Co., London. 9 x 12. \$3 per year; 144 pictures a year, halftones. Classical paintings of all times.

Classical sculpture gallery. Monthly. H. Grevel & Co., London. 9 x 12; \$3 per year. 144 pictures a year, halftones. Classical sculpture of all times.

Gems of art. Cassell Pub. Co., N. Y. 9 x 12. Second-hand.

Harper's black and white prints. Helman-Taylor Art Co., N. Y. 7 x 9; 1 cent each. Reproductions from Harper's magazine. Several hundred have been published.

Harper's black and white series. Helman-Taylor Art Co., N. Y. 16¾ x 23; 35 cents each. Reproductions from Harper's bazaar, etc. About 30 have been published.

Harper's monthly magazine. Harper Bros., N. Y. \$3 per year. Odd numbers.

Hood's photos of the world. C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. 4½ x 7; 60 cents per 100.

International studio. Monthly. J. Lane, N. Y. 9 x 12, 35 cents per number. Odd numbers.

Light of the world. The Elder Co., Chicago. 9 x 11½; \$1. 145 pictures, halftones. World's great paintings of our Lord.

Munsey's magazine. New York. \$1 per year. Odd numbers.

Museum, Das. Monthly. W. Spemann, Berlin. 10¾ x 14½; \$3 per year. 160 pictures a year, halftones. Painting and sculpture in general.

New gallery of British art. Appleton & Co., N. Y. 10½ x 14¼. Second-hand.

Outing magazine. Monthly. Odd numbers. \$3 per year.

Perry pictures. Perry Picture Co., Malden, Mass. Set 5½ x 8; 1 cent each.

Prang platinettes. Prang Ed. Co. Boston, Mass. 7 x 9; 5 cents each.

Royal academy pictures. Cassell & Co., London. 9 x 12½; 25 cents a part; 5 parts a year.

Seemann's Wandbilder. E. A. Seemann, Leipzig. 24 x 31, 12 parts. \$29.70; 10 pictures in a part, photogravures. Paintings, architecture, and sculpture.

Stil, Der. G. Hirth, Munich. 9 x 12; 25 cents a part; 120 pictures a year, halftones. Pictures of human figure. (Parts 1-30.)

Witter wall pictures. J. C. Witter Co., 123 5th av., N. Y. 20 x 25, halftones; 25 cents each.

Illinois institute for the blind at Jacksonville has inaugurated a system of lending books for the blind to public libraries in the state that will become responsible for them.

Library Section of the N. E. A.

The Library section of the National educational association will be one of the important factors for helpfulness at the coming meeting of the N. E. A. at Charleston in July.

The relation between the work of the school and the work of the library is now fully recognized by the most progressive educators of the country, and an opportunity for a discussion of this relation should be utilized.

Such an opportunity will be offered at Charleston. Two addresses on the subject will be offered. The one on Wednesday afternoon, July 11, by Miss Mae E. Schreiber of Madison, Wis., will discuss How to direct children's reading. In the second, on Friday afternoon, July 13, H. L. Elmendorf, of Buffalo public library, will present the subject, The greater school, or the school plus the library, greater than either.

A paper on Library extension, with special reference to the traveling library movement, will be read by Mrs Eugene B. Heard, superintendent of traveling libraries of the Air line, Middleton, Ga.

Teachers and others interested are cordially invited to enter the general discussion of these topics, and assist in making these meetings interesting and profitable.

The secretary will be glad to receive any suggestions that will aid in making the meeting successful.

MARY EILEEN AHERN,
Sec'y of Library section, N. E. A.
Library Bureau, Chicago.

The U. S. civil service commission will hold an examination for public document indexer and catalogers, June 20-21, open to all citizens over 20 years of age who comply with the requirements. Applicants will be considered wholly on ability shown by grade in examination. Persons who desire to compete should apply to the U. S. civil service commission, Washington, D. C., at once for application forms 304 and 375, which should be properly executed and promptly filed with the commission.

American Library Association

There is little to add to the very full plans which have already been made known for the meeting at Montreal, June 6-12, and the Post Conference trip down the St Lawrence, June 12-17.

As to the program, there are many details yet pending which can hardly be known fully until quite the end of the month. The most important general sessions are likely to be those of—Friday morning, on Library work with children; Monday morning, Canadian libraries and literary topics; and Monday afternoon, the Coöperative committee's program. Of the section sessions, that of the Large libraries section on Access to shelves will attract a good deal of attention. The Round tables of catalogers, of officers of state associations, and of library commissions, respectively, will open new phases in A. L. A. work.

Judging from responses received by the secretary, more numerous than usual, the attendance at this conference bids fair to be large and in excess of earlier expectations. Efforts have been made to obtain a goodly representation of library trustees and directors, but with what success cannot be well determined in advance of the meeting. The officers of the Trustees section are preparing a special program for their consideration.

HENRY J. CARR, Sec'y.

It should be remembered in preparing for this trip that a water voyage is always cooler than a land journey, and that warm clothing will be absolutely necessary for comfort to those going on the Post Conference trip.

R. P. Hayes, travel secretary for Chicago and vicinity, reports that the Western passenger association has not granted rates for this meeting, and the fare and a third will not prevail in that territory, but will be given from Chicago on. The fare from Chicago to Montreal all rail \$18; from Chicago to Toronto by rail and steamer on to Montreal \$22; return fare \$6.

Points of Interest of Montreal

MCGILL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY,
MONTREAL, April 21, 1900.

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

You ask me to mention, for the benefit of your readers, some of the things that they may expect to see in Montreal at the approaching meeting of the American Library Association.

Montreal is, as you know, an old French city modernized. Often this modernizing has been somewhat ruthlessly done, but there still remain many relics of the past to attract visitors, and students of our institutions may observe on all sides (as every guidebook of the city informs the reader), the effects of our mixed population, for Montreal stands at the parting of the ways. Eastward, for hundreds of miles, the country is more French than English; westward to the Pacific coast the English predominate. However, as the study of the social and political problems of Montreal presupposes the expenditure of more time than is likely to be available in the hurry of the conference, I turn to matters more external.

Your readers have all doubtless read the account of the founding of the city given in Parkman's *Jesuits*. We shall take our visitors to the very spot where de Maisonneuve landed, where Father Vimont uttered his prophecy. The pretty stream which then flowed into the St Lawrence at the place has disappeared, the site of de Maisonneuve's camp is occupied by the Custom house; but close at hand is Champlain's Place Royale, whither for generations the flotillas of Indian canoes bore their loads of furs. In another part of the city, on the high plateau where, a century and a quarter later, Amherst received the surrender of the old French town, we can show two ancient stone towers, in one of which was for years a school for Indian children.

We, or rather the Numismatic and Antiquarian society, who will be the hosts on the occasion, will show them the most interesting building in Montreal, the old home of the governors,

the Chateau de Ramezay. Within its walls one can easily imagine oneself back in an earlier century, when Benjamin Franklin and Charles Carroll of Carrollton were inmates of this same building. The Chateau has a story far too varied to recite now, yet one incident in its history ought especially to interest librarians. It was here that Franklin started his Montreal printing press. Hard by, in St Gabriel st., John Jacob Astor's store is still standing, though no longer filled with pelttries. We shall take our guests to the summit of Mount Royal. They shall go to Lachine, so called because as you know it was supposed by La Salle to be the veritable gate of China and the Indies. From here they shall shoot the Lachine Rapids, and as they embark, give a passing thought to the terrible massacre of 1689. On the way to Lachine stands an old building which is generally known as La Salle's house. It really belonged, however, to a family named Cuillerier, a name which recalls Cuillererie, the family which was afterwards present with Pontiac at the siege of Gladwin in Fort Detroit. And by the way, if you happen to recall the name of the Jesuit father, Du Jaunay, or, as Parkman calls him, Du Jonois, who announced to Gladwin the capture of Michilimackinac, you will be interested to learn that the father compiled a French-Ottawa dictionary which has never been published. You shall see the manuscript, however, in the McGill library.

We could show you many other scenes of historic interest, and shall do so if we have time. One does not realize how rich in associations Montreal is till one begins to enumerate. But I must remind you that Montreal is not only a city with a past, it is also a busy and rapidly growing commercial center; a seaport a thousand miles from the sea, yet possessed of a water power which is practically limitless, and with all that this implies in the way of facilities for manufacturing industries.

Then there are churches and clubs, colleges and pictures (Montreal enjoys,

I believe, the reputation of possessing better pictures than any city on the continent except New York), and, finally, there are two universities, Laval, a branch of the venerable Roman Catholic institution at Quebec, and McGill, of which latter I will only say that she unites with the Numismatic and Antiquarian society, the Fraser institute and the Westmount public library, all represented upon the local committee, in once again inviting all members of the American Library Association to attend the conference this summer, and in promising those who come a most hearty welcome. C. H. GOULD.

Co-operative Reading

The Cleveland public library has enlisted a group of people of good literary judgment to read the books in the current lists as they appear from time to time.

The committee is made up as follows: Prof. O. F. Emerson, chairman Adelbert college; Dr Ashley Thorndike, of the College for women; Dr Hulme, of the College for women; Mary Adams, of the Central high school; J. B. Smiley, of the West high school; Grace Wenthham, of the Miss Mittleberger's school; Father Gilbert Jennings, of the St Agnes church; Prof. F. M. Comstock, of the Case school of applied science; A. D. Sheffield, of the University school; Miss Raymond, of the Brown-Hathaway school.

The committee is in no sense employed by the library, nor does it have any voice in the purchase of books for the library. Librarian Brett can disregard its recommendation or disapproval if he sees fit. In asking the persons mentioned above to give the benefit of their knowledge of good literature to Cleveland readers, the following suggestions were made:

It is hardly necessary to say that the purpose of reading is to determine the question of the value of the book to the library. The library is being built up along the lines of general information and literature, and also along some special lines, particularly the various industries of Cleveland. For books on special subjects, however, expert opinion is usually obtained, so

that the committee will not be called upon to read books dealing with technical subjects.

To render a book a desirable addition to the library it should have a value to the library:

As literature, e. g., Addison's essays.

As giving information, e. g., Coffin, Boys of '76, which, though written in faulty English, is a spirited history of the Revolution.

For both style and contents, e. g., Motley, Dutch republic.

Many of the books which are offered each year have nothing of value either in style or matter, and some are decidedly objectionable from the subjects with which they deal and their manner of treating them. The opinion of the reader should help to class the book as:

1 One which has enough of merit either in style or matter to make it worth while to place a single copy in the library.

2 A work of unusual interest or value which may be heartily recommended, and which should be duplicated to meet the demand.

3 As having so little value in either style or matter as not to be worth while.

4 As being objectionable from its style or from the subjects with which it deals; as, for instance, unwholesome social relations, which have formed the theme of so much recent fiction.

It should be borne in mind that books which go upon the library shelves are within reach of all readers, and therefore the welfare of the young reader must be considered. It is true that there are books which, although they are objectionable on some accounts, e. g., Fielding's Tom Jones, still have such a well recognized place in the history of the world that it is desirable, almost necessary, to have them in the library. Such books are not placed upon the shelves for general circulation, but are only issued to students. It is exceedingly undesirable, however, to increase the number of such books, and it is not the plan of the library to buy anything which cannot be placed in general circulation unless it has extraordinary merit or value.

No book is read by all of the committee and most of the books by only one or two. If on the first reading both of the two should report that a book is worthless as literature, or contains questionable morals, the library would not think of buying the book. If the two readers should disagree, the book would be read by others of the committee and the sum of all the reports taken together would decide.

The reports are written on standard size cards, which are filed and are accessible at a moment's notice.

The plan is working very satisfactorily, and is one which might be tried with success by other libraries.

Relation of the State to the Library*

Worthington Ford

How far may the state influence the choice of a profession? Does the public library stand among the functions of the state? The theory underlying democratic government is that all men shall be equal in their opportunities; that they shall be in a position where that which is best and strongest in them may find activity. The ancient organization of society into kings, hereditary nobles and priest at the head, was supposed to be necessary to the well-being of society. It was deemed necessary to keep down the so-called lower classes by hard labor, to take from them so much of their earnings as would leave to them a bare existence; and these earnings were applied to maintain the privileged orders. The opposite idea is embodied in our constitution, which in theory counts all men equal before the law. The theory of government is different from the art of government. Short as has been the experience of the United States, there have been important failures in the attempts to reconcile the interests of the individual with those of society at large. The slave power was based on and maintained by the self-interest of comparatively few individuals. Individual selfishness was the principal cause of the maintenance of slavery. Individuals are prone to prey upon each other as one animal preys upon another. The negro problem is not one that mere legislation on the part of the government could settle. The solution of that problem is one that can best be taken up by the people of the South and by the negro himself, and Booker Washington has done much toward its solution.

We are now confronting an equally difficult problem. How shall we deal with the people of our new acquisitions? Shall we treat them on the cash basis of getting out of them as much as we can and giving them nothing in return, or shall we grant the people of these new

lands any or all of the privileges that we enjoy? It depends on ourselves to solve this problem properly.

The industrial situation has changed greatly from what it was in early days of our history as a nation. A change in the methods of manufacture makes itself felt for a time, narrowing the opportunities of the individual. In a clashing of interests between capital and labor the law may often intervene with good effect, all being supposed equal before the law, and equality before the law implies an equitable law. Changes in industrial methods have reacted upon the character of society itself. Man has passed from the condition of a social unit which he formerly occupied, to that of a social molecule, and the art of government has kept pace with this development. The individual makes his own place in society given a fair opportunity, but legislation has no power to change the inherited qualities of the individual. In nature each variety or species has its own definite form and character. Man may by cultivation increase indefinitely the number of the petals of the rose, he may add to the varieties of color of a blossom, but he can never alter the essential characteristics of a rose or of a pink. So the state, however much it may influence by legislation the education of its future citizens, cannot change their essential characteristics. The function of public education should be, not to furnish the pupils with a great variety of undigested and often unnecessary information, but to ground them in those elementary principles that will be of practical value to them in after life. Some of the ideas derived by pupils under our educational system, as shown in their answers to questions, are very amusing; for example, one defined a republican as a sinner mentioned in the Bible; a fort was defined as a place of confinement for men, and a fortress as a place for women; the papal bull was supposed to be a sort of cow that, however, did not give any milk; Esau wrote a book and sold his copyright for some potash.

*From a lecture at the Boston public library April 2, 1900.

The state cannot make learned men by legislative acts with regard to education. It can only give everyone an opportunity for the cultivation of his natural faculties. For its own safety the state assumes that the man who can write and do sums is less dangerous to the state than the man who can do neither of these things. But the use of the public library to achieve the best results must be voluntary. Imagine what would be the effect of obliging all children of a certain age to make use of the library. One virtue of the Roman Catholic church is that its doors stand always open. In this respect the public library adopts that principle of the Catholic church by keeping its doors always open as an invitation to the public. The public schools cost the city \$31 per year for each pupil. The public library is patronized by about one person in every nine of the population; each card averages 20 books a year; this however does not take into account the departments and the branches. The average cost to the city for each card-holder is less than \$4 a year.

On Paying Duplicate Collections

Irene Gibson, Public library, Washington, D.C.

A paying collection of duplicates is an attempt to meet the demand for popular books without exhausting a library's funds. Extra copies of the favorite novels are bought and issued at a small sum until they have paid for themselves.

In a library where the Newark charging system is used the duplicate copies are accessioned, shelf-listed, labeled, marked, and cataloged in the ordinary way, except that the book-card, instead of being white, is some bright color. They are issued like any other book, but on each one there is a charge of 10 cents a week.¹

An exact and separate record of the duplicate collection can be kept on standard-sized slips, one to a title. At the top are the call no., author, brief title, and price. Below these are columns, copy 2, copy 3, etc., whenever a duplicate is added.

In addition to this record with the title, there is an account with the collection as a whole. It can be kept for a month on one standard-sized slip. The entries are very brief, for example:

| | | | |
|-------|----------|--------|--------|
| May 3 | 7 bks. @ | \$1.40 | \$9.80 |
| " | 5 " | 1.00 | 5.00 |

A moment's addition will show the exact number of duplicates added during the month and the amount expended. All this information could be found by looking back through the accession book, but to have it at hand for instant reference saves time and labor.

In two or three months the dates stamped on the charging slip will probably show that the book has been issued often enough to pay for itself. Perhaps it has brought in a few cents more than its actual cost. If it has not been popular it had better be transferred to the regular collection at a loss rather than grow old on the shelf. Mark o. k. if the cost and the income from the book are even. If it has brought in more than the cost mark it plus. If it has not paid for itself, enter the difference between the cost and the income as minus. A record slip will look something like this:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| J 642 t Johnston | To have and to hold | \$1.40 |
| Cop. 2 = +.10 | | Cop. 5 1.45 |
| " 3 = -.20 | | |
| " 4 = o. k. | | |
| " 5 | | |
| " 6 | | |

This shows that four duplicate copies of To have and to hold were bought at \$1.40 and one at \$1.45. That copies 2 and 4 have been transferred to the regular fiction. That copy 3 was removed before it had paid for itself, before the book was found defective, at any rate there was a loss of 20 cents against which can be credited the 10 cents extra from copy 2. That copies 5 and 6 are still circulating at 10 cents a week, and should be allowed to remain until they have earned \$2.95, when the accounts will be even, and instead of having just one copy of a popular book the library will own five.

The separate record of the duplicate collection helps a librarian to answer

quickly and easily some of the oft-repeated questions: 1) How many and what books have ever been in the collection? 2) how many and what books have been added to the regular library by its means? 3) how many and what books are in the duplicate collection at the present time? 4) what has been the total cost, and what the cost of each individual book? 5) what has been the total income, and what from each book? 6) how many copies does the library own of each popular novel?

Shakespeare Book Numbers

Of Shakespeare's dramatic works and Shakespeariana the Wilmington (Del.) Institute free library has about 225v. Its books are classified according to the Decimal system, modified in literature so that authors are arranged alphabetically and not chronologically in their sections. In English drama Shakespeare (Cutter's Alfabetic-order table, Sanborn's modification) is 822 S52. We have found the following sub-sections fairly satisfactory:

822 S52 Shakespeare.

- .1 Dramatic works.
- .2 Selections and quotations.
- .3 Authorship.
- .4 Bibliography.
- .5 Biography and general criticism.
- .6 Textual criticism.
- .7 Concordances.
- .8 Dictionaries.
- .9 Miscellany.

To the sub-section numbers we add two figures for author or editor, the arrangement being alphabetic. For example, in dramatic works the Furness edition is S52.138, Hudson S52.147, Rolfe S52.178. The books are further distinguished by volume number. In biography and general criticism Brandes is S52.517, Wendell is S52.594; in miscellany Dyer's Folklore of Shakespeare is S52.929, Harting's Ornithology of Shakespeare S52.942.

Our readers who have free access to our shelves readily understand this system and easily find for themselves any work desired.

ENOS L. DOAN, librarian.

Library Schools

Illinois

At the April meeting of the Library club Dean Ricker, of the department of architecture, lectured on library architecture. Lantern slides were used to illustrate the lecture, which proved one of the treats of the year.

The regular meeting of the club was held May 8, at which officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, Miss Manley; secretary-treasurer, Miss Miles; executive committee, Misses Mann, Spellman, and Storms. The program for the day was in charge of Mrs Read, assisted by Miss Cole, the subject being Reference work in college and university libraries. Mrs Read read a thoughtful and most interesting paper upon Methods of college reference work, emphasizing the great need of instruction to students in the use of the library, and discussing how much, and what kind of assistance should be given students in their work. Miss Cole discussed seminar collections and various aids, giving a brief history of different methods and their development in some prominent university libraries. A general discussion of the various points raised followed the reading of the papers.

Mr Rowell, librarian of the California university library, visited the school May 11. He addressed the students during the morning, giving a very interesting talk upon methods in use in his own library, including cautions against some things to be avoided, and suggesting many inspiring thoughts. After the informal talk Mr Rowell submitted graciously to a cross examination upon practical problems at issue, and his method of treating them. The visit was greatly enjoyed by the students; and will be remembered by them as one of the pleasantest events of the year.

May 12 the library students entertained about 40 guests at a dancing party from three to five. The women's gymnasium rooms were prettily decorated for the occasion, and an exceed-

ingly pleasant afternoon was enjoyed. This is the first affair of the kind attempted by the library students as a school. The success of the experiment will probably insure its repetition another year.

The month of May was full of good things in the way of visiting librarians. F. M. Crunden, of the St Louis library, spent May 17 and 18 in visiting the school, both in his capacity as a member of the A. L. A. committee on library schools and as a visiting librarian. Miss Jones, of the State library, Columbus, Ohio, will spend a week in Urbana, also to visit the library school. Miss Stearns, of the Wisconsin state library commission, is expected to spend several days at the university, during which time she will lecture to the students.

Gertrude Shawhan, class of 1900, has been appointed to a position in the Congressional library, Washington.

Anna Price, class of 1900, goes to the State university, Vermillion, S. Dak., in July, to organize the library.

Pratt

Mary W. Allen, '00, has been appointed assistant in the Brooklyn institute library.

Mary Frances Isom, '00, goes to Cleveland as assistant in the summer library school.

W. H. Duncan Jr., '00, has been appointed librarian of the University club, New York.

Frances Danner Thomson, class of 1900, has been appointed an assistant in the library of the Jacob Tome institute, Port Deposit, Md.

Caroline L. Koster, '93, now a student in the children's librarian course, will take Miss Mears' place on the library staff during the latter's absence.

Mary M. Melcher, '97, has been appointed to the staff of the Congressional library. Other graduates of the school received appointments, but declined them.

Louise Mears, of the library staff, has been granted a year's leave of absence

in order to take the course for the training of children's librarians in the Pratt institute library school next winter.

Ten members of the first-year class have acted as visitors to the Home library circles organized by the library chapter of the Pratt institute Neighborhood association. They feel that the experience has been invaluable. Two other members of the class have taken charge of the library of the City park mission every Friday evening during the year.

Cleveland

The public library announces a summer school of library science to be held in Cleveland from July 23 to September 1. The course is planned for the benefit of assistants in public libraries, for eligible applicants for positions in the Cleveland public library, and for librarians of small libraries, and the aim will be to give as thorough a course of technical library training as can be compressed into six weeks of close work.

Miss Crawford, head cataloger of the Dayton public library, will be principal instructor. She will be assisted by Miss Eastman, vice librarian, and Miss Tyler, head of the catalog department, Cleveland public library. A brief course of lectures on general and historical biography will be given by A. D. Severance, assistant in history at Western Reserve university.

Minneapolis

A summer course in library science will be given at the University of Minnesota. The course is open only to those who expect to teach or do library work in Minnesota, and the fee is \$5. The instruction will be in charge of Mrs W. J. Southward, a graduate of the library school formerly located at Armour institute, assisted by C. Baldwin, librarian of the state commission. There will also be lectures by specialists and visits to printing offices, binderies, bookstores, and libraries. Application should be made to Miss Gratia Countryman, secretary of Minnesota State library commission, Minneapolis.

College Section

Ohio Wesleyan university library, Delaware, Ohio, has received a fine addition by the gift of the classical library of the late Prof. Karl Gittl of Würzburg. This library, which consists of 2000v., was purchased from Gustav Fock of Leipsic, and presented to the library by Prof. John Williams White of Harvard, an alumnus of the class of 1868, O. W. U. Since moving into the new building the use of the library has increased 20 per cent. Indeed, gratifying progress may be reported along all lines.

In the winter semester a lecture on the Use of reference books was delivered by Linda Duvall, the assistant librarian, and a second one on the Scope of current magazines and periodicals will shortly be given by the librarian, Prof. T. G. Duvall.

Hamilton college at Clinton, N. Y., Melvin G. Dodge, librarian, has outlined a bibliography of the college which seems to include everything connected therewith. The 26 letters of the alphabet are used for the main classes, with numerical subdivisions under each class.

Hamilton college bibliography

A, Charter and statutes; B, Trustees and treasurer; C, President; D, Faculty; E, Library and museum; F, Catalogs; G, Addresses; H, Reports; I, Programs; J, Lectures; K, History; L, Theses; M, Honors and prizes; N, Periodicals; O, Athletics; P, Societies and clubs; Q, Greek letter fraternities; R, Miscellany; S, Presidents; T, Trustees; U, Faculty; V, Alumni; W, Letters; Y, Buildings and campus; Z, Law school; &c., Miscellany.

At a meeting of the faculty of Bowdoin college in Brunswick, Me., Pres. Hyde announced that Gen. Thomas H. Hubbard of New York (Bowdoin, '57) had presented to the college \$150,000, to be used for the construction of a new library building.

News from the Field

East

Dartmouth college library received a gift of \$10,000 by the will of Mrs Susan Brown.

Sarah Ely, for 30 years librarian of Holyoke (Mass.) public library, resigned May 15.

E. J. Lawrence, of Fairfield, Me., has given the Book club of that city \$8000 for a public library building.

Gen. T. H. Hubbard of New York has given \$150,000 for a new library building for Bowdoin college.

The private library of the late Dr W. F. Poole was sold at auction by Libbie & Co. of Boston, May 10-11.

The public library of Worcester has introduced the privilege of renewing books by telephone, without requiring the presentation of the book and card at the library.

Recently the Adams express company gave to the Railroad young men's Christian association of New Haven, Conn., \$2000 for the purchase of books for a library.

Newburyport, Mass., has received from J. R. Spring a gift of \$20,000 for the public library, the income to be spent for books, and \$4500 from the late S. W. Marston of Boston.

John Nicholas Brown of Providence, well known for his magnificent gifts to public enterprises, died in New York May 1. It will be remembered that he gave \$250,000 for the public library building in Providence.

The Somerville (Mass.) public library board has agreed that each cardholder shall be allowed to take out 10 books during July and August, and keep them four weeks without renewal. The books may be taken to any distance the borrower may choose.

Central Atlantic

The Grosvenor library of Buffalo held a most excellent exhibition of

books and plates in arts and crafts in its medical department April 28-30.

The Josephine Widener memorial branch of the Philadelphia free library was opened to the public with appropriate ceremonies May 8.

Bertha E. Rombauer, graduate of the New York state library school, class of '99, has been appointed librarian of the Sheboygan (Wis.) public library.

Arthur R. Kimball, formerly state librarian of New Hampshire, has been appointed superintendent of the order department in the Congressional library.

The new Van Wickle library at Lafayette college, Easton, Pa., erected from the legacy of the late A. S. Van Wickle at a cost of \$30,000, was dedicated on May 30.

The Library commission of Pennsylvania will soon send out traveling libraries through the state. For the present the libraries will be supported by private contributions.

Mary Wilson McNair, New York '96, cataloger in the New York public library, has received an appointment in the catalog division of the Library of congress.

Harriet Wheeler Pierson, New York '96, cataloger in the New York public library, has received an appointment in the catalog division of the Library of congress.

The Freelending library of the Brooklyn union for Christian work carried out a most successful exhibit of nature books in April. Over 600v. on natural history were placed on exhibition.

The Philadelphia law library has received as a gift from Lord Salisbury, the English premier, 23 unbound volumes of the report of the English commission on the Venezuelan boundary dispute. This is the only copy of the report sent to the United States.

Gov. Vorhees of New Jersey has appointed the following to constitute the library commission for the state: Ernest C. Richardson, librarian of Princeton

university; Moses Taylor Pyne, of Princeton; William C. Kimble, of Passaic; Frank P. Hill, librarian of the Newark public library; Rev. Everett T. Tomlinson, of Elizabeth.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) Union for Christian work free lending library added 3030v. in 1899; total in the library 43,556v. The circulation for the past year was 206,819, an increase of 3900 over the previous year; this does not include books of reference used in the reading room. Except to teachers in the schools only one book each day is allowed to borrowers. The reading room is used chiefly by women and children, and is supplied with magazines and illustrated papers. This department has been used by over 15,000 persons. The library received during the year from the city \$5000; from the Union for Christian work, \$1500, and from the Library department of the University of the state of New York, \$100.

The Brooklyn public library will shortly open to the public its seventh branch. The Prospect branch, as it is to be called, will have temporary quarters in the Litchfield mansion in Prospect Park, where a nature library was placed some time ago for the park employés and for teachers of the vicinity and their pupils. A demand for literature suitable for children led the library to extend its collection somewhat, and the result was a very large circulation, chiefly among young people. It had been decided by the board of directors last year to establish a branch somewhere on the park slope as soon as funds were available for that purpose, and it has been thought best to organize this branch at once at the Litchfield mansion, with the understanding that it will be removed to larger quarters as soon as the city provides funds for that purpose. The branch is at present circulating books only among adults, and is open from 2 to 6 p. m. When the resumption of its circulation among children takes place it is expected to open it from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m.

The Carnegie library of Pittsburg will start, in the autumn, a class for training its children's librarians, as the future opening of new branches, and a large children's room at the central library, will call for a corps of carefully trained assistants. Arrangements have been made with the Pittsburg and Allegheny kindergarten college for coöperation, giving those in training that part of the kindergarten course which will bring them into the proper attitude toward children, and teach them to handle children in mass as well as individually. The course, as now planned, will cover two years of practical work, including the regular work in the six children's rooms, and practice among the home libraries, in the schools and in the free kindergartens and summer playgrounds of the city.

Central

Cincinnati public library has opened a special room for children.

Hutchinson, Kan., has voted a tax for establishing and maintaining a public library.

The next annual meeting of the Iowa library association will be held at Sioux City Oct. 11-12, 1900.

Anna Hoover, for some time assistant in the Galesburg (Ill.) public library, has been appointed librarian.

The cornerstone of the new public library building at Des Moines was laid May 19, with appropriate ceremonies.

Over 800 school children of the 2000 enrolled in the public schools of Evans-ton, Ill., have joined the Library league, and are carrying out its pledges.

Andrew Carnegie has given \$12,000 for a public library to Ironwood, Mich., with the usual condition that a site be furnished and the city provide for the maintenance.

The Newberry library of Chicago report the number of current periodicals in the library as 1217; books and pamphlets, 220,258; readers for 1899, 76,368;

books consulted, 124,131. The blue print catalog of Academies from the British museum accessions is complete, and will be exhibited at the Paris exposition.

Kansas State historical society library contains 22,426v. of newspapers, 22,000 books, 66,000 pamphlets, 22,555 manuscripts, 4517 pictures, 5439 relics, 4551 maps and atlases, some of which are old and of rare significance. The manuscripts alone are of almost priceless value. There are some hundreds of volumes and papers from the libraries of John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

The Michigan City (Ind.) public library reports a circulation of 36,053v., with 4416v. in the circulating department, and a total of 5476v. in the library. During the four months in which the school classroom was open it was occupied 35 afternoons, and 1826 books were used by the grades in their visits. The children's room has been specially favored with gifts of money, books, and pictures.

Gov. Shaw of Iowa has appointed the following as members of the library commission for that state: Capt. W. F. Johnston, Fort Dodge; Mrs H. M. Towner, of Corning; Mrs D. W. Norris, of Grinnell; Jessie B. Waite, of Burlington. The ex-officio members are Johnson Brigham, state librarian; R. C. Barrett, state superintendent of public instruction, and Pres. McLean, of the university of Iowa.

The public library of Cleveland has begun a scheme of furnishing books to the firemen at the departments. A case containing 24 books has been built for each engine and hook and ladder house in the city. The books supplied to the firemen are some of the best and latest on the fiction shelves. When two companies have exhausted the books in their library they will exchange, and in this manner the cases will be kept going the rounds. Whenever desired the books will be entirely changed at the library.

At the April meeting of the city council in Rock Island, Ill., the proposition to expend \$70,000 for a new library building was unanimously carried, the collection of the tax to be spread over a period of seven years.

The public library at Elyria, Ohio, has opened a children's room which Miss Parker, the librarian, reports: It is the pleasantest part of the library. The wall space is hung with green burlap and the floor covered with green, corkine. The first exhibition consists of about eighty bird pictures, mounted, with typewritten description of each. Part of these are on the burlap and part hang from screens. Two of the spaces I have reserved for historical pictures and book-lists. The children are perfectly delighted, and the room is usually full after school hours.

The public library of Toledo, Ohio, has greatly increased its scope since the rearrangement of its rooms. An average of 3000 more books are circulated each month than before the shelves were open to the public. Five substations have been opened in various parts of the city. A new reading room has been fitted up in the main building, and the former reading room has been made into a reference room, thus largely increasing the study quarters. The juvenile department has largely increased its patronage, and has a circulation of 270 books a day. The Sunday attendance at the library averages 500 a month. With an increased tax levy larger plans still will be carried out.

South

Mrs Charles Scheuber has been elected librarian of the new Carnegie library at Ft Worth, Tex., at a salary of \$900.

The city of Dallas, Tex., has by ordinance set aside a lot on which to build the Carnegie library, for which was also appropriated \$4000 a year.

Miss Wallace lifted the first shovel of earth for the beginning of the new library building at Atlanta, Ga., May 15,

amid hearty applause from the company assembled to witness the start.

Pacific Coast

It is announced that Dr Emma Sutro Merritt will carry out the wishes of her father, the late Adolph Sutro, and give to the public the large library of rare books and manuscripts which he collected. It is not yet decided whether the San Francisco public library or the University of California will be custodian.

Foreign

An international Congress of librarians will be held in Paris in August, in connection with the Paris Exposition. Questions of modern library administration and bibliography are given large place on the program.

The council of Glasgow adopted the Free libraries act April 23, and the work of providing a free public library and reading room will soon be commenced. Glasgow has heretofore had endowed and subscription libraries.

G. B. Phillips, librarian of the Carnegie public library at Ayr, Scotland, died after a short illness April 17. Mr Phillips was recognized as one of the foremost librarians of Great Britain, and his library was noted by the library visitors of 1897 as one of the best that were seen.

Wanted.—A librarian with two years' experience, who uses the Decimal classification of the A. L. A., wishes a position June 1. References and testimonials.

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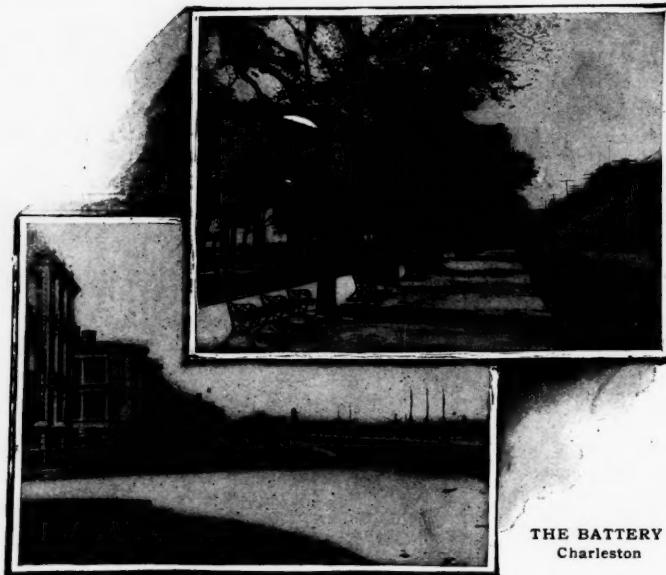
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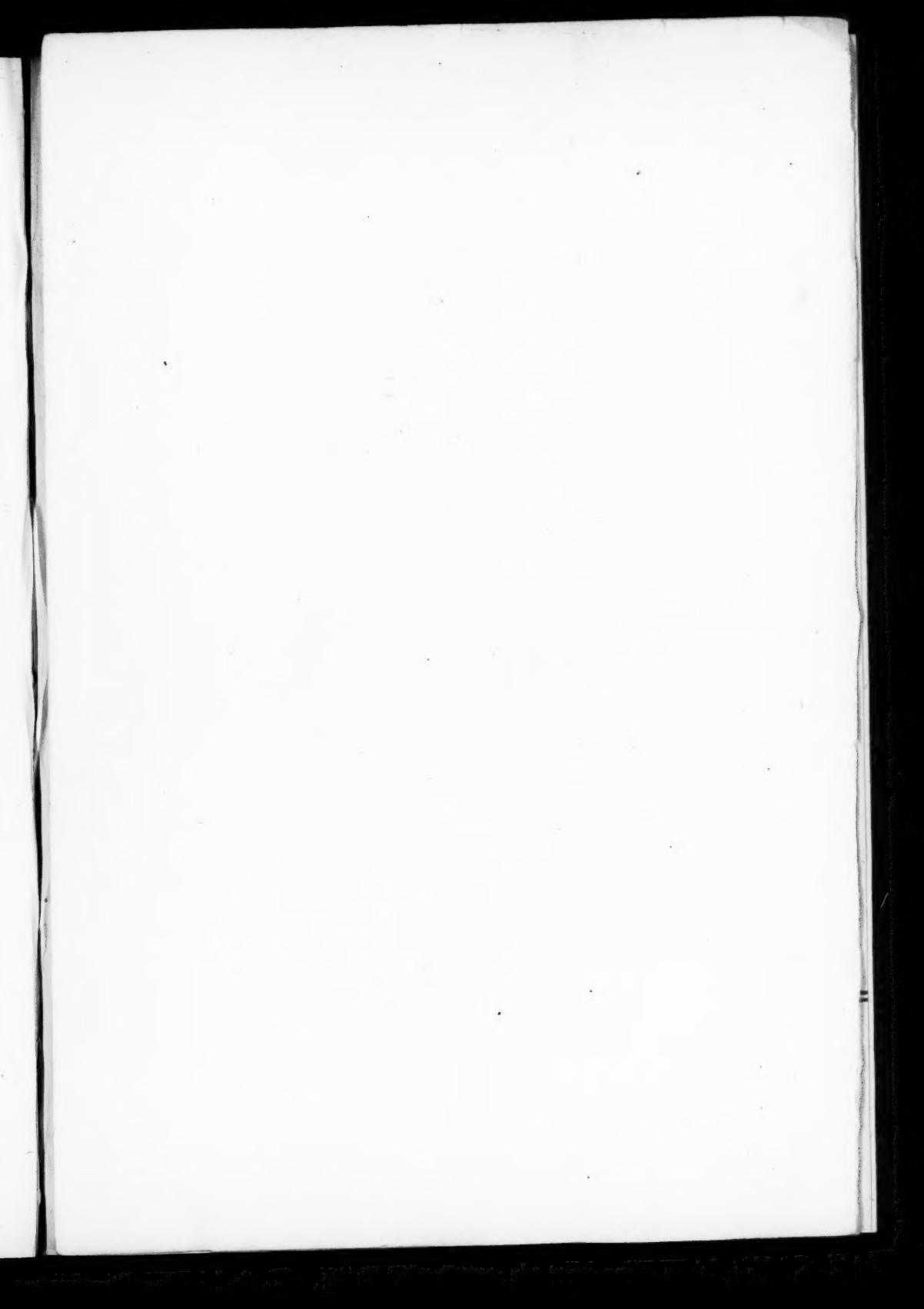
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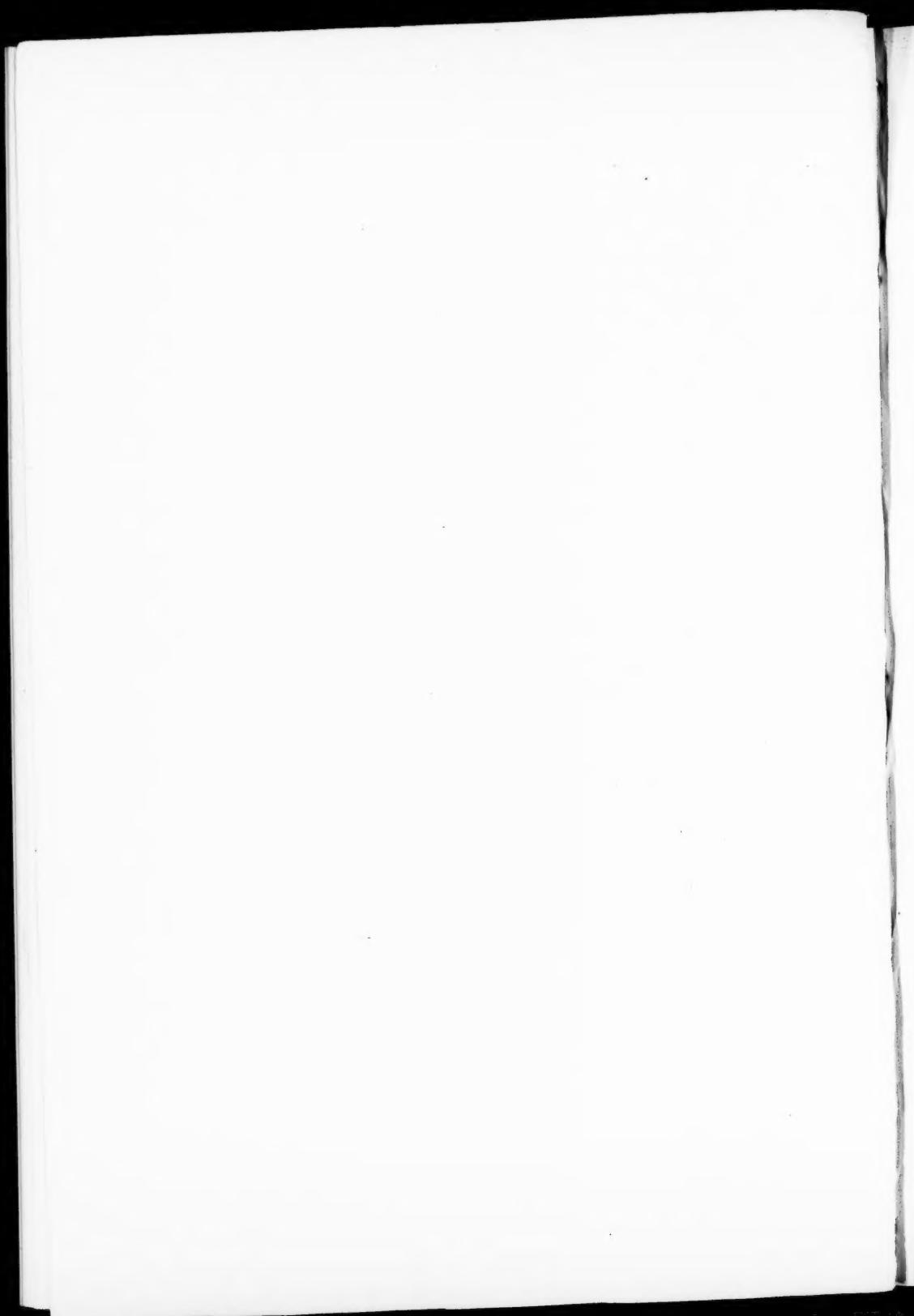
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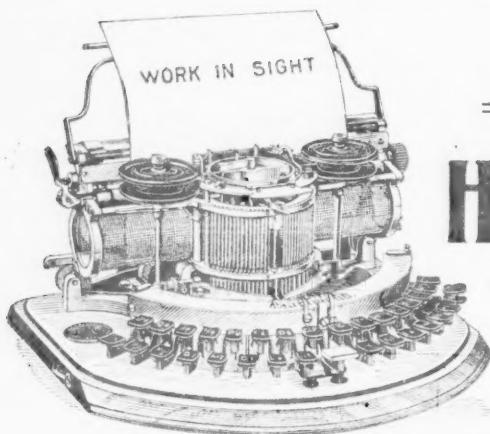
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